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H

- 1 machine.  
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3 6. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 5, characterised  
4 in that the needleboard is correspondingly curved.  
5  
6 7. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, characterised  
7 in that the needlefelting machine comprises two  
8 needleboards at respective locations which are  
9 mutually displaced along the direction of travel  
10 of the batt through the needlefelting machine.  
11  
12 8. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 7, characterised  
13 in that the two needleboards are respectively  
14 disposed to needle the batt from mutually opposite  
15 sides of the batt.  
16  
17 9. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 8 and wherein the  
18 needlefelt incorporates a scrim, characterised in  
19 that the first of said two needleboards in the  
20 direction of travel of the batt through the  
21 needlefelting machine is disposed to needle the  
22 layered combination of batt and scrim from the  
23 side opposite to the scrim.  
24  
25 10. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 3, characterised  
26 in that prior to being needled, the batt is  
27 subjected to a preliminary consolidation and fibre  
28 entanglement in a pre-needling machine.  
29  
30 11. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 10, characterised  
31 in that while being partially consolidated in the  
32 pre-needling machine, the batt is curved in its  
33 direction of travel through the pre-needling  
34 machine.  
35  
36 12. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, characterised

1 in the ball is a resilient hollow ball.

2

3 13. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 12, characterised  
4 in that said ball is a tennis ball.

5

6 14. A felt-covered ball, characterised in that the  
7 ball-covering felt is a needlefelt comprising an  
8 entanglement of fibres formed by the needlefelting  
9 of a fibre batt passed through a needlefelting  
10 machine having at least one needleboard providing  
11 barbed needles to penetrate said web in a range of  
12 angles including a plurality of angles which are  
13 non-perpendicular with respect to the surface of  
14 the batt.

15

16 15. A felt-covered ball as claimed in claim 14,  
17 characterised in that the ball comprises a  
18 resilient hollow core to which the needlefelt is  
19 adhered.

20

21 16. A felt-covered ball as claimed in claim 15,  
22 characterised in that the ball is a tennis ball.

23

24 17. A felt-covered ball, characterised in that the  
25 ball is covered by a needlefelt produced by the  
26 method as claimed in claim 1.

27

28 18. A felt-covered ball, characterised in that the  
29 ball is covered by a needlefelt as claimed in  
30 claim 4.

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32 19. A felt-covered ball as claimed in claim 17 or in  
33 claim 18, characterised in that the ball is a  
34 tennis ball.

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36 20. A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, characterised

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ADD A2  
ADD C1